

Not Your Usual Christmas Quiz (Stolen from somewhere decades ago and modified by Mark Pierson over the years. Original source unknown, but appreciated....)

1. Joseph was **originally** from... (Luke 2:3)
 - A. Bethlehem
 - B. Nazareth
 - C. Hebron
 - D. Jerusalem
 - E. None of the above

2. What does the Bible say that the innkeeper said to Mary and Joseph? (Luke 2:7)
 - A. "There is no room in the inn."
 - B. "I have a stable you can use."
 - C. "Come back later and I should have some vacancies."
 - D. Both A and B
 - E. None of the above

3. A manger is a...
 - A. Stable for domestic animals
 - B. Wooden hay storage bin
 - C. Feeding trough
 - D. Barn

4. Which animals does the Bible say were present at Jesus' birth?
 - A. Cows, sheep, goats
 - B. Cows, donkeys, goats
 - C. Sheep and goats only
 - D. Miscellaneous barnyard animals
 - E. None of the above

5. Who saw the star in the east?
 - A. Shepherds
 - B. Mary and Joseph
 - C. Three kings
 - D. Both A and C
 - E. None of the above

6. According to the Bible, how did Mary and Joseph get to Bethlehem?
 - A. Camel
 - B. Donkey
 - C. Walked
 - D. Joseph walked, Mary rode a donkey
 - E. Horse-drawn chariot
 - F. Who knows?

7. How many angels spoke to the shepherds? (Luke 2:10)
 - A. One
 - B. Three
 - C. Multitude
 - D. None of the above

8. What did the angels say/sing? (Luke 2:14)
 - A. "Glory to God in the highest,...."
 - B. "Alleluia"
 - C. "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given"
 - D. "Joy the world, the Lord is come"

- E. "Glory to the newborn King"
9. What is a heavenly host?
- A. The angel at the gate of heaven
 - B. The angel who serves refreshments in heaven
 - C. An angel choir
 - D. An angel army
 - E. None of the above
10. There was snow that first Christmas...
- A. Only in Bethlehem
 - B. All over Israel
 - C. Nowhere in Israel
 - D. Somewhere in Israel
11. What is frankincense?
- A. A precious metal
 - B. A precious fabric
 - C. A precious perfume
 - D. None of the above
12. In Matthew, what does "wise men" or "Magi" refer to?
- A. Men of the educated class
 - B. Eastern kings
 - C. Men who studied the stars
 - D. Gurus
13. What is myrrh?
- A. Middle Eastern money
 - B. A drink
 - C. An easily shaped metal
 - D. A spice used for burying people
 - E. None of the above
14. How many wise men came to see Jesus?
- A. 3
 - B. 6
 - C. 9
 - D. 12
 - E. Who knows.
15. Where did the wise men find Jesus? (Matthew 2:11)
- A. In a manger
 - B. In a stable
 - C. In Nazareth
 - D. In Saudi Arabia
 - E. In a house
 - F. None of the above
16. When the wise men found Jesus he was... (Matthew 2:11)
- A. A babe wrapped in swaddling clothes
 - B. A young child
 - C. A boy in the temple
 - D. A grown man

17. The “star in the east” that the wise men followed... (Matthew 2:9)
- A. Stayed in the same place their entire journey
 - B. Disappeared and reappeared
 - C. Moved ahead of them and stopped over the place where Jesus was
 - D. Was just a mirage
 - E. None of the above
18. The wise men stopped in Jerusalem... (Matthew 2:2)
- A. To inform Herod about Jesus
 - B. To find out where Jesus was
 - C. To ask about the star
 - D. To buy presents
 - E. None of the above
19. Where do we find the Christmas story?
- A. Matthew
 - B. Mark
 - C. Luke
 - D. John
 - E. All of the above
 - F. Only Mathew and Mark
 - G. Only Matthew and Luke
 - H. Only Mathew, Mark and Luke
20. When Joseph found Mary was pregnant, what did he do?
- A. Married Mary
 - B. Wanted to break the engagement
 - C. Made Mary leave town for three months
 - D. A and B
 - E. B and C
21. Who told (forced) Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem? (Luke 2:1-5)
- A. The angel chorus
 - B. Mary’s mother
 - C. Herod
 - D. The shepherds
 - E. Caesar Augustus

Answers (E&OE.)

1. A. He worked and lived in Nazareth, but he was returning to Bethlehem – “his own city” (See Luke 2:3).
2. E. The innkeeper didn’t “say” anything (See Luke 2:7). The Bible doesn’t even mention an “innkeeper” because the “inn” was probably more like a guest room in a house.
3. C. Feeding trough – Most mangers in New Testament times were made of stone.
4. E. The Bible doesn’t say, we just assume that since Jesus was born in a stable that there were various barnyard animals present. The Bible also doesn’t mention a barn or a stable. But, a feeding trough was used by animals so a stable or barn adjoining a home would be a reasonable inference.
5. E. The “magi” saw the star. However, the Bible doesn’t say how many there were and they were not kings, but astronomers (see answer 14).

6. F. Although the modern “pictures” in Children’s Bibles show Mary on a donkey with Joseph beside her, the Bible doesn’t say.

7. A. Luke 2:10. Only one angel spoke directly to the shepherds. Verses 13-14 record what the angel company said as they praised God together.

8. A. Luke 2:14.

9. D. The word means “army” – literally thousands. Since there was a “multitude” of the heavenly army (hosts), there could easily have been from 10,000 – 100,000 angels there that night. No wonder the shepherds were afraid!

10. D. There is always snow on Mt. Hermon.

11. C. Frankincense was an incense used in temple worship.

12. C. The word “Magi” literally means “star-gazers”. There is no Biblical record of exactly who they were or their place of origin. A or D would work also. They were the professors and philosophers of their day, trained in history, religion, prophecy and astronomy. They were also trained in what we would call astrology.

13. D. Myrrh was used in embalming. Herod was buried with over 150 lbs. of Myrrh wrapped in his burial clothes. John 19:39 tells us that Jesus’ body was bound in linen wrappings along with 75 pounds of myrrh and aloes.

14. E. We don’t know. They were magi, not wise men – but the Bible doesn’t give the number. Many people assume that there were three because of the three gifts. However, in ancient times these men usually travelled in caravans of ten to twelve, along with a full entourage for protection.

15. E. Matthew 2:11 (see next answer)

16. B. Matthew 2:11 When the Shepherds found Jesus (Luke 2), he was a “babe” in a manger. The Greek word used in Luke 2 is for a “newborn baby”. However, by the time the Magi appeared, Jesus had been moved from the manger to a house (Matthew 2/ 11) and the Greek word used in Matthew is for “toddler or young child”. He was probably somewhere between 12-24 months old. The magi didn’t show up at the same time as the shepherds.

17. C. Matthew 2:9 The star did not stay stationary over the manger or the house. This verse makes it clear that the star moved “in front” of the magi and guided them till it “stood over where the young child was.” B is also possible. Matthew 2:9 can be read to say that they saw the star in the east, knew from prior study that the baby was to be born in Bethlehem, and made the journey across the desert. And then the star reappeared when they arrived at Bethlehem.

18. B. Matthew 2:2. They assumed Herod would know. Although the Jewish scribes knew exactly where the Messiah was to be born (according to Micah 5:2), they were not interested enough to travel the 10km to Bethlehem to see for themselves. (Several commenters note that the Magi wouldn’t have known Jesus’ name. They were looking for the one born “King of the Jews.” They would have found out later that his name was Jesus.

19. G. These two gospel writers use their interests and professions to recall different aspects of Jesus’ birth. Matthew, a tax collector, records the genealogy of Jesus (used for taxation) and the “magi” – men of means from a foreign country. Luke, a physician, records the pregnancy and birth.

20. A. Joseph wants to “take care of things quietly” but God tells him to marry Mary.

21. E. “There went out a decree from Caesar Augustus... everyone into his own city... “ (Luke 2:1-5). While Caesar Augustus never met Mary and Joseph and almost certainly never even heard of them, it was his order for the census that forced Joseph and Mary to make the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in the latter stages of Mary’s pregnancy.